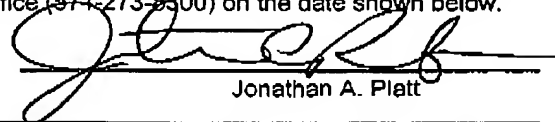


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## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached, enclosed, or following) is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (571-273-8800) on the date shown below.

Date: August 1, 2006  
Jonathan A. Platt

Attorney Docket No. ERICP0326USB

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Applicants: Gregel et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,509

Filed: October 30, 2003

Title: REINFORCING BAR CONNECTION AND METHOD

Examiner: James R. Brittain

Art Unit: 3677

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 2, 2006**Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Further and favorable consideration of the above application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments presented in the following listing of claims, and in view of the following remarks.